

Health Neighborhood Overview

What is the Health Neighborhood Initiative?

The Health Neighborhood Initiative brings together health, mental health, and substance use disorder providers to establish and enhance collaborative relationships and promote the integration of whole-person care. Participating service providers are linked to an extensive network of governmental and community supports including, but not limited to: County and city agencies, educational institutions, housing services, faith-based groups, vocational supports, advocacy and non-profit organizations, prevention programs, social services, etc. These providers come together with vital input from the community to enhance the health and well-being of neighborhood residents.

What are the two models that come together to make up a Health Neighborhood?

1. Community Change Model*

The Community Change Model addresses the social determinants of health for a specific population.

“The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels.”** The Community Change Model mobilizes residents, community organizations, and institutions to identify the root causes of specific issues that are impacting a community. The goal of this model is to achieve community-driven health and wellness with a focus on policy and system change.

2. Service Delivery Model*

The Service Delivery Model brings together health, mental health, public health and substance use disorder providers in each neighborhood. The aim is to cover all age groups from prenatal to older adults and identify and include culturally and linguistically appropriate services. This collaboration of providers comes together to establish and/or refine referral processes, conduct screenings across agencies, and become further educated on what services are offered by participating providers. Community input is essential in ensuring that services are responsive to the specific needs of the neighborhood residents. The overall goals of the service delivery model are to expand access to services, increase coordination of care between providers, and contain costs.

What are the advantages for providers who participate in a Health Neighborhood?

- Screen consumers for health, mental health, and substance use disorder issues with the knowledge that there is an array of providers to refer to depending on need.
- Have greater ability to effectively coordinate care for consumers seen by multiple participating providers (e.g. physical health, mental health, and substance use disorder providers).
- Use a variety of culturally and linguistically appropriate health, mental health, and substance use disorder providers to meet the needs of a diverse consumer population.
- Improve treatment adherence and clinical outcomes for consumers through the addition of health, mental health, substance use disorder, and community services and supports.
- Decrease duplication of services by improving communication and care coordination while containing costs.
- Increase providers' understanding of supportive services in the community that may assist in the well-being of those served.

*Health Neighborhoods, Summary of Workgroups Sessions, Rigoberto Rodriguez, 2013

**World Health Organization, 2012